

Marriages of Overseas Indians

†175. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Overseas Indians face difficulties in getting married;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to enact a law to dispense justice to overseas Indian victims of marriages and put a curb on financial fraud?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs does not maintain data on difficulties/problems faced by overseas Indians in getting married. However instances of problems arising from marriages to overseas Indians are received from time to time.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

Death of Indians in Saudi Arabia

176. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of that nearly 300 Indians died in Saudi Arabia during this year due to unnatural causes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the leading cause of unnatural deaths were on account of suicides committed mainly due to non-payment of salaries, harassment by employers; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard with the Saudi Government?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Embassy of India, Riyadh, as on 14.11.06 out of total 1155 deaths in KSA about

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488 were due to causes such as traffic accidents, industrial accidents, suicide, murder etc. 56 deaths were on account of suicide. None of the suicide cases were on account of non payment of salaries or harassment by employers. However, whenever complaints about non payment of salaries, harassment by employers etc. are received, the Indian Mission promptly takes up the matter with Saudi Authorities concerned. If necessary, the foreign employer is also black listed and action is also taken against recruiting agent concerned as per provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983.

Illegal Migration of workers

177. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that illegal migration of workers to Iraq with the help of unregistered agencies taking place;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain elements in the Protector of Emigrants Offices help those unauthorized agencies to circumvent the ban imposed by Government;

(c) whether such unregistered agencies have been booked in this connection; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Some incidents of Indian workers being shifted to Iraq from countries like Kuwait by unscrupulous employers are reported from time to time.

(b) Since deployment of Indian workers in Iraq is prohibited, the offices of Protector of Emigrants do not grant emigration clearance or suspension to any emigrants intending to go to Iraq.

(c) and (d) the matter is taken up with concerned the State Governments for prosecuting about (seventeen) such unregistered agents.